

UN Food Systems Summit Private Sector Guiding Group

Coalition for Soil Health Call to Action

22 July 2021

CONTEXT

The Private Sector Guiding Group (PSGG) to the UN Food Systems Summit has identified the opportunity to advance the solution cluster proposed by the Action Track 3 Global Soil Hub:

The Global Soil Hub calls specifically for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder coalition to facilitate the adoption and scaling of soil health restoration practices with outcomes for growth, productivity, rural livelihoods, climate and nature.

As the official focal point for business and industry into the Food Systems Summit, the PSGG is well-positioned to generate private sector momentum on the topic of soil health and carbon sequestration. The PSGG CEO Consultation supported the formation of a broad coalition as a game-changing solution to deliver a high-level ambition and set of commitments that will resonate with stakeholders and governments looking for tangible outcomes at the Summit.

THE COALITION PURPOSE

The PSGG Coalition for Soil Health supports the Global Soil Hub's call for multi-stakeholder engagement on soil health and restoration. The Coalition can be a sounding board and enabler to identify gaps and bring ideas from the private sector together that support soil health. It can bring proposals and ambitions forward to Action Track 3 and the Food Systems Summit stakeholders on how business can engage.

As a first step, the Coalition has developed a strong **Call to Action on Soil Health** that 1) recognizes the need for private sector participation and engagement; 2) acknowledges tangible outcome-related goals and solutions; 3) highlights the work that is being accomplished through existing initiatives and alliances; and 4) emphasizes the need for science-based approaches and measurements. The Coalition will also ensure alignment to the Food Systems Summit Innovation, and Finance Levers of Change and the Scientific Group.

The PSGG Coalition on Soil Health can utilize the opportunity to present itself at the Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit by delivering a Call to Action that is visibly supported by the companies, associations and initiatives that will ultimately deliver on the overall ambition and commitments.

CALL TO ACTION ON SOIL HEALTH

*The Private Sector Guiding Group (PSGG) Coalition for Soil Health **recognizes the central role of soils as an asset** to the aims of food security and nutrition, economic development, climate change, nature and resilient livelihoods, pursuing the objective to provide a Return on Investment (ROI) up and down the value chain.*

The PSGG Coalition for Soil Health **acknowledges the important role of farmers as agents of change and innovation.**

The PSGG Coalition for Soil Health **commits to facilitate and adopt the development of methods and tools** that allow “soils to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans, and connects agricultural and soil science to policy, stakeholder needs and sustainable supply-chain management.” ([Lehmann, Bossio, Kögel-Knabner, Rillig, 2020. The Concept and Future Prospects of Soil Health](#)).

The PSGG Coalition for Soil Health **seeks to galvanize, support and further enhance the specific food systems outcome related activities and goals** that are envisioned by the PSGG Business Declaration and existing soil health initiatives, and will work collaboratively with other stakeholders and in particular with Member States and civil society to accelerate implementation and uptake.

As such, the PSGG Coalition for Soil Health will pursue, promote and scale a systems-based approach to soil health restoration and management that is:

- **science and evidence-based**
- **quantifiable and verifiable**
- **farmer-centered, providing income opportunities**
- **contributing to sustainable and productive agriculture with nature-positive impact on soil functions, including but not limited to increasing soil organic carbon**
- **embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals**

Supporters of the PSGG Coalition for Soil Health commit to:

- ❖ *Defining a set of financial mechanisms and investment solutions that can support farmers in their adoption of better soil management practices, be tailored and scaled to different regions, and take into account government incentives and programs*
- ❖ *Proposing actionable roadmaps to enhance regenerative agricultural practices*
- ❖ *Empowering farmers and landowners, helping to design new business models that include compensation and rewarding schemes for ecosystem services*
- ❖ *Supporting the development of voluntary and transparent carbon market and pricing mechanisms, including carbon credits as a tool and incentive to transition to sustainable agriculture and to provide extra income for farmers*
- ❖ *Advancing public-private soil health stewardship programs*
- ❖ *Aiming for a better connection between farmers and consumers by amplifying the global recognition of farm-led sustainability efforts*
- ❖ *Adopting a full value-chain approach to soil protection*

Supporters of the PSGG Coalition for Soil Health

BASF
Bayer
Corteva
Nestlé
Nutrien

OCP
Pepsico
Rabobank
Syngenta
Yara

CropLife International
International Fertilizer
Association
WBCSD